MARVEL

3

AARON
KIRK
FAJARDO
JOHNSON
BERNARDIN
RAFFAELE
MOSSA

STAR WARS™

DARTH VADER

BLACK, WHITE & RED

When Anakin Skywalker turned to the dark side, he became Darth Vader, one of the most powerful Sith of all time. In his service to the evil Galactic Empire, he has left a trail of destruction and terror, striking fear into the hearts of millions across the galaxy....

STAR WARS
DARTH VADER
BLACK, WHITE & RED

"HARD SHUTDOWN PART 3"

JASON AARON writer • LEONARD KIRK artist

ROMULO FAJARDO JR. color artist

"ANNIHILATED"

DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON writer & artist

"DIPLOMATIC IMPUNITY"

MARC BERNARDIN writer • STEFANO RAFFAELE artist • ANDRES MOSSA color artist

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DISNEY • LUCASFILM

"HARD SHUTDOWN part 3"

Jason Aaron - writer • Leonard Kirk - artist
Romulo Fajardo Jr. - colorist

DELTA TEAM! STATUS!

HEEIHK!

AW, FOR... THEY'RE ALL *DEAD* IN THERE, AREN'T THEY?

EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM.

YOU SAID *VADER* COULDN'T HOLD THE BUILDING IF WE CAME AT IT FROM ALL SIDES AT ONCE.

I KNOW WHAT I SAID.

WHEN THIS ALL STARTED, YOU SAID HE'D BE AS *HELPLESS* AS A BABY JAWA!

I'M MAINTAINING CONTROL OF VADER'S SYSTEMS FROM HERE. HE'S STILL *IMMOBILIZED.*

OH, WELL, THAT'S GREAT-- OTHERWISE, HE MIGHT BE DOING SOME *REAL DAMAGE* TO US, *HUH?*

SNAP

"WE'RE STUCK OUT HERE WHILE HE'S LYING IN OUR BODY SHOP, KILLING OUR ENTIRE CREW WITH HIS...HIS MAGIC *MIND POWERS.*"

SOME BIG MASTER PLAN YOU HAD, *CYN.*

THOSE SYSTEMS OF HIS ARE WORTH MORE MONEY THAN ANY SCORE WE'VE EVER PULLED.

GREAT! SO GO GET THEM!

FUMP

YOU'RE RIGHT. WE CAN'T.

WE'LL HAVE TO SALVAGE WHAT WE CAN FROM HIS *CORPSE.*

GET THE *SHIP* IN THE AIR.

WHAT A WASTE. WE'RE ABOUT TO BLOW UP OUR ENTIRE SHOP, ALL OUR HARD WORK, BECAUSE OF *ONE* MAN.

HE'S NOT A **MAN**. AND IF YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER SOLUTION, YOU LET ME KNOW.

HMPH. WAS BETTER OFF WORKING FOR THE HUTTS.

FIRING.

DIRECT HIT! NICE SHOOTING, DAWS!

NOW CIRCLE AROUND AND FINISH HIM OFF!

DAWS?!

TURNING, BUT... CONTROLS AREN'T RESPONDING...

IT'S LIKE... *RRGH*... SOMEONE ELSE IS STEERING.

IT'S VADER! HE'S CONTROLLING THE SHIP!

THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE!

FIRE ALL WEAPONS! FIRE EVERYTHING AT THE BUILDING! NOW!

I CAN'T CONTROL IT! I'M GONNA--

NO...

UGGH... VADER...

WHAT'S VADER'S STATUS...?

WHAT'S...?

OH NO.

CYN! WE'VE GOT *MOVEMENT!*

CYN! WHAT DO WE DO?!

FATHER...

...YOU WERE RIGHT.

HE'S *MAGNIFICENT.*

COMMANDER!

WE HAVE FOLLOWED THE REBEL SHIP. IT IS ENTERING THE PLANET'S ATMOSPHERE NOW. HE WAS CORRECT. IT LED US RIGHT TO THEIR OUTPOST.

VERY GOOD! ANOTHER REBEL STRONGHOLD WILL BE PUT TO **DUST**. AS IT SHOULD BE.

SHALL I DISPATCH OUR GROUND UNITS?

NO.

HE WAS VERY SPECIFIC IN HIS INSTRUCTIONS.

"HE WANTS TO DO THIS ON HIS **OWN**."

BLUE SQUADRON! WITHOUT US, THIS TRANSPORT WON'T MAKE IT, AND NEITHER WILL OUR TROOPS ON THE GROUND! WE ARE IT--

GHAKKK

BLUE LEADER IS GONE! REGROUP ON ME! TRANSPORT **VELLUS**--

--AHEAD FULL THROTTLE!

ROGER THAT BLUE SIX! WE'RE GOING AS FAST AS WE CAN!

BOOM!

BOGEY IS COMING IN HOT! LET'S BUY THE **VELLUS** SOME TIME!

RIGHT BESIDE YOU, BLUE SIX! GOING TO ATTACK PATTERN **DELTA!**

ENGAGE!

OH GOD-- HIGHL--

BLAM

BLAP

BZAP

BZAP

BZAP

BZAP

WE JUST LOST BLUE THREE!

KEEP POURING IT ON!

KKROOOM

ZZT

HE'S HIT! LOOKS LIKE HIS WEAPONS ARE OUT! BLUE TWO, GO!

ROGER THAT, BLUE SIX!

THIS IS BLUE TWO, MOVING IN FOR THE KILL!

IVE GOT HIM DEAD IN MY SI--

SHWA

GUKK

BLUE TWO! WHAT'S WRONG??

GKKKK

BLUE TWO, YOU'RE TOO CLOSE!!! PULL UP!!!

PULL UP, PULL--

BLUE GROUP! REPORT! **REPORT!**

BKSCRM

WHAT IS GOING ON?

GHKKK

COMMANDER? ...ARE THEY...?

ALL GONE.

AND--AND THE TRANSPORT?

...OUR FAMILIES?

IT CAN'T BE...

...ONE MAN?

PTOOM

PTOOM

KOW

KOW

KOW

FALL BACK TO THE BASE! FALL B--

--!

SOMEDAY...

...YOU WILL PAY FOR THIS.

SOMEDAY THERE WILL BE JUSTI--

LORD VADER!
STATUS REPORT?!
...LORD VADER?
"ANNIHILATED"
STORY, ART, & LETTERS BY
DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON
IT IS
DONE.
END
DWJ 2023

"DIPLOMATIC IMPUNITY"

Marc Bernardin - writer • Stefano Raffaele - artist
Andres Mossa - colorist

The *Executor*. Darth Vader's flagship.

LIEUTENANT *SULACO*, REPORTING, LORD VADER.

WITH ME, LIEUTENANT.

WE ARE GOING ON A... DIPLOMATIC MISSION. I NEED A PILOT.

I KNEW HE NEEDED MORE THAN JUST A PILOT. RUMOR HAS IT, AFTER THE BATTLE OF YAVIN, HE FLEW A FAILING TIE FIGHTER HALFWAY ACROSS THE GALAXY. *NO DROID PILOTING.* JUST...HIM.

AND, FOR SOME REASON, HE WANTS ME. ON A MISSION. WITH NO ESCORT.

JUST US.

NOTIFY ME WHEN WE HAVE ARRIVED.

THIS COULD BE BIG FOR US. FOR OUR FAMILY. ADVANCEMENT. PRESTIGE. IF *DARTH VADER* TAKES A SHINE TO ME, IT COULD CHANGE EVERYTHING.

BUT I'VE HEARD THINGS. OFFICERS TALK. THE STORIES ABOUT HIM. THEY CAN'T BE TRUE...EXCEPT THAT I'M POSITIVE THEY ARE.

BEEPBEEPBEEP

PREPARE TO LAND ON THE THIRD MOON.

THE...THIRD MOON?

YOU'RE FROM HERE. IT IS WHY YOU WERE CHOSEN FOR THIS MISSION.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT IN THERE, LIEUTENANT?

SARJENN 3 ONLY HAS ONE PORT. AND THE ONLY THING TO TRADE IS ORE. THERE'S A CONSTABLE. FOUR OR FIVE DEPUTIES.

AN A280C BLASTER RIFLE. ALLIANCE ARMAMENT.

MY LORD... WHY ARE WE HERE?

AS I SAID, THIS IS A DIPLOMATIC MISSION.

BUT... SARJENN 3 HAS NO DIPLOMATS.

IT'S PEOPLE JUST TRYING TO LIVE A LIFE.

I'M TELLING YOU! IT'S VADER. HE'S *HERE!*

PEW

REBEL SCUM.

VWIP--

BOOM

WHEN I LEFT, THIS WASN'T A REBEL STRONGHOLD.

IT STILL ISN'T. THIS IS A SPECK. BUT IT WILL SERVE.

HE DIDN'T TALK MUCH.

LET 'EM HAVE IT!

KKRUMBLE

HE DIDN'T HAVE TO.

I AM SURE THERE WAS A PLAN FOR WHEN THE EMPIRE DISCOVERED THIS LOCATION.

STRATEGY. TACTICS. *ARTILLERY.*

FWOOSH

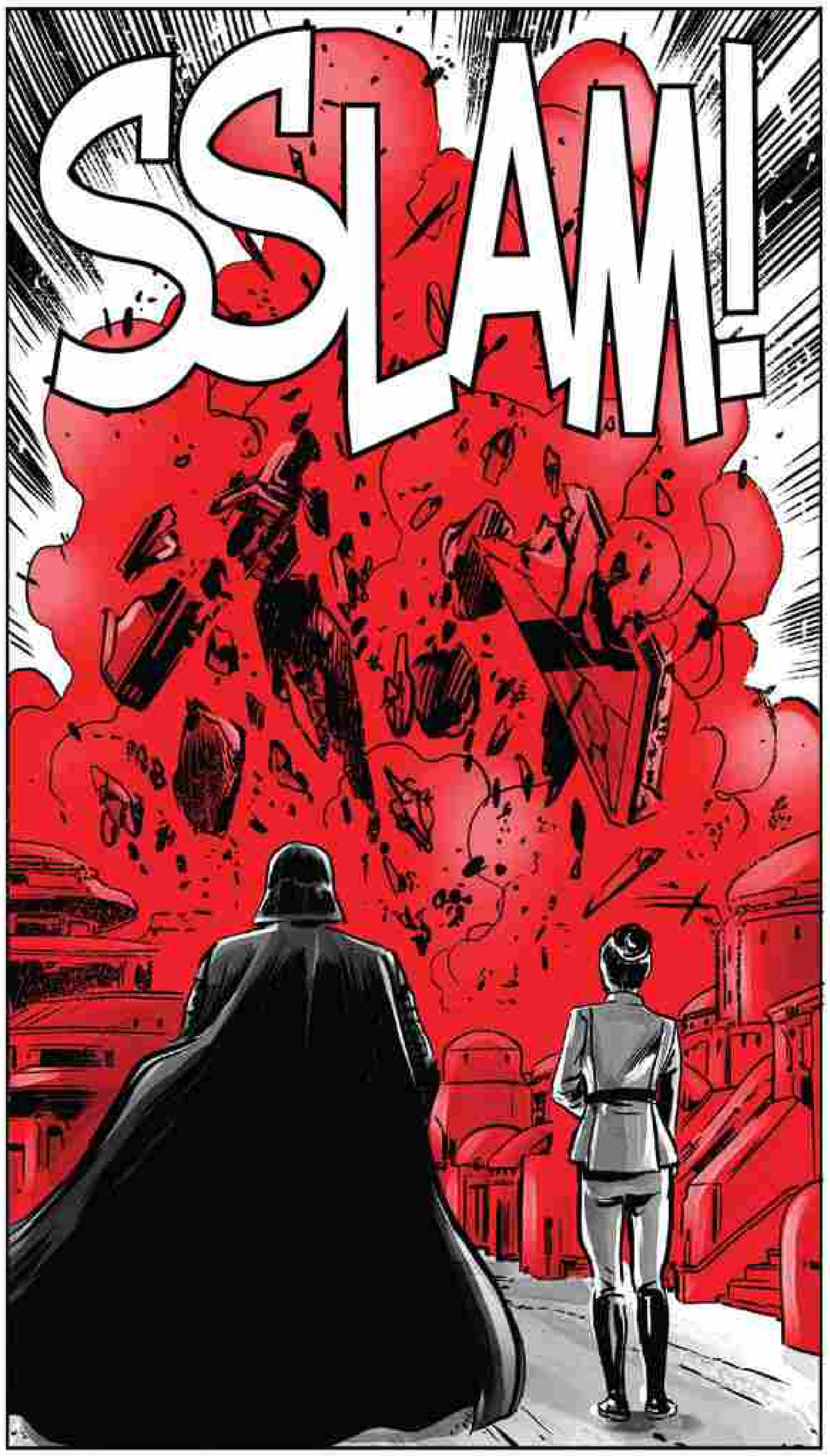
THERE IS NO PLAN FOR VADER.

BOOM

MY LORD, YOU SAID THIS WAS A DIPLOMATIC MISSION.

THERE IS A CONVERSATION THAT NEEDS TO BE HAD.

WITH WHO?


SLAM!

THERE IS A REBEL ALLIANCE SPY ON MY SHIP.

THIS IS... MY HOUSE.

I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG SHE HAS BEEN UNDERCOVER. OR HOW MUCH DAMAGE SHE HAS DONE.

BUT IT STOPS NOW.

NO... PLEASE...

SPK WOOSH

I HAD NO CHOICE. I HOPE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND. I PROMISED HIM EVERYTHING.

I'D GO FROM BEING A SPY TO A DOUBLE AGENT. I'D FEED THE REBEL ALLIANCE WHATEVER INFORMATION HE WANTED ME TO.

IN EXCHANGE FOR SAVING YOUR LIVES. EVEN IF IT MEANT ENDANGERING THE LIVES OF OTHER REBEL SOLDIERS.

HE DOESN'T WANT THE ALLIANCE WIPED OUT. "PRUNED" WAS THE WORD HE USED. A REBELLION IS GOOD FOR IMPERIAL MORALE. A WARTIME EMPIRE NEEDS AN ENEMY. ONE HE CAN *CONTROL*.

ALL IT COST WAS MY SOUL.

I LOVE YOU.

SAY WHAT YOU NEED TO SAY. YOU WILL NEVER BE BACK HERE AGAIN.

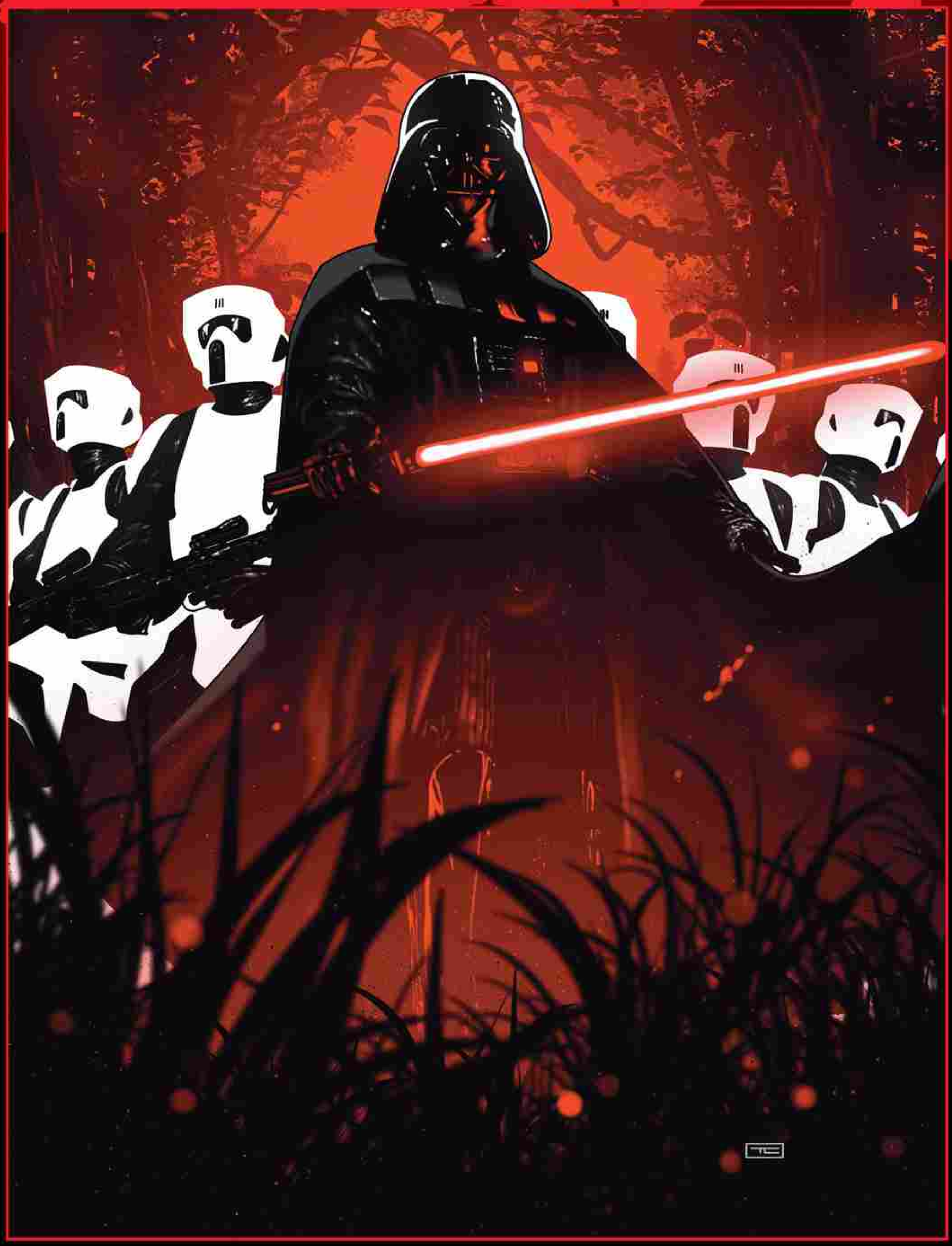
WE HAVE WORK TO DO.

The end.

NEXT

FRANK TIERI sends VADER to HOTH, while STEVE ORLANDO goes cerebral with THE CORRUPTION OF DARTH VADER'S MIND!

PLUS: The final chapter of JASON AARON & LEONARD KIRK's dark tale!



ISSUE FOUR COMING SOON

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